

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph that begins at line 35 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph.

The feedback loop (26 in FIG. 1) is then allowed to drive the output oscillator frequency towards the frequency  $NF_{ref}$  where the output signal  $S_{out}$  would be locked to the reference signal  $S_{ref}$ . The loop drives the control voltage to the #2 circle which is at the limit of the predetermined control-voltage range. The controller senses this (e.g., with aid of a comparator) and increments the divisor X to place ~~plæee~~ the output oscillator frequency on the tuning curve 44.